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Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023

**Inquiry into the Appropriation Bill 2022-2023
and Appropriation
(Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2022-2023**

Speaker's Response

Recommendations 2, 3, 4 and 136

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that the Speaker resolve the constitutional rights of committees to conduct their business so that future inquiries do not encounter the same issues that impacted the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023.

Speaker's Response:

As Members will be aware, I sought legal advice after the work of the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023 was affected by the prohibition notice imposed on the building.

Members will also be aware that I gave precedence to a privilege matter that was raised with me, and the Assembly subsequently established a Select Committee on Privileges 2022.

I trust that both the legal advice and the outcomes of the Select Committee on Privileges 2022 process will ensure that the issues that impacted the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023 are resolved.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that the Speaker authorise the use of the chamber for future public hearings for inquiries into ACT Budget Estimates and Annual and Financial Reports.

Speaker's Response:

There are guidelines for the use of the chamber, endorsed by the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure in 2007, which gives the Speaker the ability to approve the use of the chamber for purposes other than sittings of the Assembly. Should a committee request the use of the chamber for the purposes of conducting a hearing, I would approve such a request.

Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government fund improvements to the Chamber so that it has suitable audio-visual functionality.

Speaker's Response:

The Speaker supports this recommendation and has asked the Office to seek advice as to what resources are required to enhance the Chamber's audio-visual functionality.

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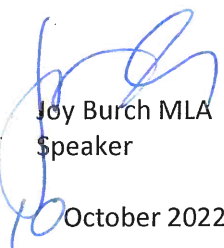
Recommendation 136:

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government fund OLA to provide end-of-trip facilities in the building, and upgrades to the public entrance and building signage.

Speaker's Response:

The Office remains committed to providing end-of-trip facilities within the building and accessible by all staff. The Office will put forward the budget bid again in 2022-23.

In relation to the upgrade of the public entry, the office will use its own funds to further a preliminary design concept and commence consultation on the design with Members and staff. Next steps will involve a budget bid in March 2023 to seek funding to progress to full design and costing with a further budget bid in March 2024 for construction to commence in late 2024.



Joy Burch MLA
Speaker

10 October 2022

